

## Living on a Budget

**Directions:** Use Career Outlook information to estimate a monthly budget based on potential salary, college loans and living expenditures.

The budget on Career Outlook page 60 is based on the following information:

- ND approximate entry-level wage for a specific occupation.
  - (e.g., pg. 29 - Pharmacy Technician \$29,960)
- Completion of a degree that requires approximately two years of college.
- Two years of college loans that will cover approximately 1.5 years of total costs.
  - (e.g., pg. 63 – North Dakota State College of Science offers the program)

1. **Annual College Cost** (see pg. 63) times **years of college attended** equals the **Total Cost of College**:

$$\frac{\text{Annual College Cost}}{\text{Annual College Cost}} \times \frac{\text{years of college attended}}{\text{years of college attended}} = \frac{\text{Total Cost of College}}{\text{Total Cost of College}}$$

2. Based on the **Total Cost of College** of college, approximately how much money will you need to save or borrow to attend college and complete a degree program?

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

3. Choose an occupation on pp. 14-49.

What is the **Annual Entry-Level Wage**: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Multiply** the **Annual Entry Level Wage** by 80% to determine **Net Wages/Take Home Pay**. The other 20% represents taxes and other expenditures taken out of the gross salary.

$$\frac{\text{Annual Entry Level Wage}}{\text{Annual Entry Level Wage}} \times 80\% = \frac{\text{Net Wages/Take Home Pay (Annual)}}{\text{Net Wages/Take Home Pay (Annual)}}$$

5. **Divide** the **Take Home Pay** by 12 months to calculate the **Monthly Available Income**:

$$\frac{\text{Net Wages/Take Home Pay}}{\text{Net Wages/Take Home Pay}} \div 12 = \frac{\text{Monthly Available Income}}{\text{Monthly Available Income}}$$

## MONTHLY EXPENDITURES

	Percentage of Monthly Available Income	Dollar Amount
<b>HOUSING</b> (rent/mortgage)		
<b>Transportation</b> (car payments, insurance, gas, maintenance)		
<b>Food</b> (groceries/eating out)		
<b>Personal Care</b> (includes clothing, laundry expenses)		
<b>Health Care</b> (doctor, dentist, insurance premiums)		
<b>Student Loan</b> (total loan at 4.29% interest over 120 months)		
<b>Utilities</b> (electricity, water)		
<b>Entertainment</b> (cell phone, Internet, cable TV, vacation)		
<b>Savings/Investments</b>		
<b>Monthly Available Income:</b>		